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23 August 1972

General Frederick C. Weyand, USA
Commander, US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
Saigon, Vietnam

Dear Fred,

I have been remiss in not writing long before now to say how delighted I was to see you succeed General Abrams as COMUSMACV. This promotion was of course not unexpected, for I was among the legion of your friends and admiring colleagues who hoped you would get this appointment you so richly deserved and for which you were so patently the optimum choice. Nonetheless, it is always welcome when logic and good sense do in fact prevail and stellar performance is accorded the recognition it merits.

In your new incarnation, you doubtless receive a large volume of unsolicited advice, much of which is probably unwelcome and unhelpful. I have no wish to add to this collection of extraneous suggestions, but there is one matter I would like to broach in a low key for your private consideration. If these thoughts are in any way helpful, splendid. If not, toss them in the circular file.

As is obvious to even an ex-Signal Corps PFC, one of the major thorns now in the ARVN/GVN's side is the enemy's heavy artillery -- particularly his 130mm field guns. These were used with telling effect in Laos during the PDJ offensive which kicked off in December. As you well know, the Communists have also made irritating and sometimes very unsettling use of their heavy artillery, including the 130s, during their current "Nguyen Hue" campaign in South Vietnam. Recent reports suggest that enemy use of 130s was at least partly responsible for the loss of FSB Ross and Que Son district town. This morning's traffic speaks of five 130mm field guns which may soon be employed in or near Quang Tin -- a piece of paper that precipitated this note.

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Approved For Release 2004/12/02 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700090021-9

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/12/02 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700090021-9

VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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DATE: 23 August 1972

TO: The Director

FROM: George A. Carver, Jr.

SUBJECT: Letter to General Weyand

REMARKS: Attached for your information is a copy of a letter I have sent to General Weyand. It should be self-explanatory. My objective is to try to encourage him to make his subordinates avail themselves of a technique for knocking out enemy artillery which demonstrably works but which has not been properly utilized because of command and military protocol problems that only Fred himself can solve.

George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

cc: General Walters

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